



Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry

December 3, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: S. 2402 – Legislation Extending the Existing Duty Suspension on Viscose Rayon Staple
Fibers Described by U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule heading 9902.23.33**

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Minority Member Grassley:

On behalf of INDA, the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, I am writing to express INDA's strong support of duty suspension legislation for rayon fiber introduced by Senator Kay Hagan on October 29, 2009. Specifically, that legislation – S. 2402 – extends the existing duty suspension on viscose rayon staple fibers described by U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule heading 9902.23.33 ("staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning"). A companion bill – H.R. 5096 – has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

INDA is the recognized trade association of the nonwoven fabrics industry – a multi-billion dollar industry in the United States – whose members make a broad array of rayon-containing products, including health care products such as wound dressings and bandages, industrial and consumer wiping products, and absorbent items such as disposable diapers and hygiene products.

Rayon fibers are no longer produced in the United States and are unlikely to be produced here in the foreseeable future. Therefore, an extension of the current duty suspension on these fibers is justified and would continue to improve the international competitiveness of the various INDA member firms that rely on these fibers. Because all U.S. production of rayon fiber has ceased, continued suspension of this duty should have no adverse consequences for domestic firms or workers and should attract no controversy.

We understand that Congress has provided the duty suspension process to address situations such as this, and we strongly encourage a favorable report by the Committee on this bill.

INDA is grateful for the opportunity to provide its comments on this important trade issue. We stand ready to answer questions or provide additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica E. Franken
Director of Government Affairs